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Attorney's Docket No.: 003401.P114PatentIn re the Application of: Mathieu et al.

(inventor(s))

Application No.: 09/527,931Filed: March 17, 2000For: METHODS FOR PLANARIZING A SEMICONDUCTOR CONTACTOR

(title)

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

Washington, D.C. 20231

SIR: Transmitted herewith is a Preliminary Amendment for the above application.

Small entity status of this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.9 and 1.27 has been established by a verified statement previously submitted.
 A verified statement to establish small entity status under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.9 and 1.27 is enclosed.
 No additional fee is required.

The fee has been calculated as shown below:

| | (Col. 1) | | (Col. 2) | (Col. 3) | SMALL ENTITY | OTHER THAN A SMALL ENTITY |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------|---------------------------------|---------------|----------------|---------------------------|
| | Claims Remaining After Amd. | | Highest No. Previously Paid For | Present Extra | Rate | Additional Fee |
| Total Claims | * 17 | Minus | ** 20 | 0 | X9 | \$ |
| Indep. Claims | * 2 | Minus | *** 3 | 0 | X39 | \$ |
| First Presentation of Multiple Dependent Claim(s) | | | | | | |
| | | | | | +130 | \$ |
| | | | | | Total Add. Fee | \$ |

* If the entry in Col. 1 is less than the entry in Col. 2, write "0" in Col. 3.

** If the "Highest No. Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 20, write "20" in this space.

*** If the "Highest No. Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 3, write "3" in this space. The "Highest No. Previously Paid For" (Total or Independent) is the highest number found from the equivalent box in Col. 1 of a prior amendment or the number of claims originally filed.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage in an envelope addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231

on May 8, 2000

Date of Deposit

Carrie Boccaccini

Name of Person Mailing Correspondence

Carrie Boccaccini

Signature

5-8-2000

Date

A check in the amount of \$ _____ is attached for presentation of additional claim(s).
 Applicant(s) hereby Petition(s) for an Extension of Time of _____ month(s) pursuant to
37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a).

A check for \$ _____ is attached for processing fees under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Please charge my Deposit Account No. 02-2666 the amount of \$ _____.

A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

The Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks is hereby authorized to charge payment of the
following fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account
No. 02-2666 (**a duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed**):

X Any additional filing fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 for presentation of
extra claims.

X Any extension or petition fees under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

BLAKELY SOKOLOFF TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Date: 5/8/00


Andrew C. Chen

Reg. No. 43,544

12400 Wilshire Boulevard
Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, California 90025
(408) 720-8598



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of:

Mathieu et al.

Serial No.: 09/527,931

Filed: March 17, 2000

For: Methods for Planarizing a
Semiconductor Contactor

Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application, without prejudice, as follows:

~~IN THE CLAIMS~~

Please cancel claims 1-10.

Please add the following new claims:

11. (New) A method of adjusting a surface of a substrate, the surface defined by contact portions of a plurality of contact elements disposed against the substrate, the method comprising:

applying a force to the substrate to deform the substrate and change the shape of the surface of the substrate from a first shape to a second shape.